

life of Ms. Rafaela Garcia and to pay tribute to her monumental legacy in Kansas City, Missouri. Ms. Garcia, known as “Lali” to her family, friends, and neighbors, lived a life of service, selflessness, and passionate advocacy. She was ambitious and tenacious, with the goal of improving life for the Latino community guiding her work every step of the way. As I stand here today, I can confidently say that we all owe Lali an enormous debt of gratitude for the progress she fostered towards racial equality, advancing the cause of a historically marginalized population by championing equal opportunity and political representation. Lali’s dedication to serving the Latino community as an activist, community member, and office holder defined her 93 years spent on this earth and improved the lives of thousands. Lali uplifted the voices of those in need and left a profound impact on every person who crossed her path.

Born in 1927, Lali observed and experienced discrimination against the Latino community along with the severe lack of political representation for non-white citizens. During her youth, Lali used the discrimination she faced in everyday life as a source of motivation to fight for change. Years later, Lali shared stories from this time in her life to remind us of our history and the progress we have made. Lali remembered movie theaters with segregated seating, jails without due process for people of color, restaurants that barred admission for Latinos, and inferior educational opportunities for Latino students. Lali’s passion for social advocacy started young, at the age of 13, when she first visited the Guadalupe Center in Kansas City, Missouri. The Center, at that time, was dedicated to administering a school and clinic for underprivileged immigrants who settled in the mid-western city. Even at this young age, Lali saw the potential for the Center to become a vibrant community gathering place, a structure to fight against the social inequities she witnessed, and a pillar of the Latino community. As Lali served for forty-six years on the Center’s Board of Directors, this vision came to fruition, with three terms as the Board President. She oversaw a massive expansion of the services provided by the Center, advancing opportunities, services, and protection for the Latino community. Today, largely in part to Lali’s commitment, the Center has grown to provide healthcare, education, financial assistance, childcare, workforce development, and more. We are forever indebted to Lali’s work to transform this organization as it continues to provide opportunities, support, and stability for newly arrived immigrants and Kansas City natives alike. Her legacy challenges each of us to continue making Kansas City a welcoming place for immigrants to find a home, celebrate their culture, and become part of the community. As we follow in her footsteps, we must strive to ensure that all those who make the journey to the United States feel valued, cherished, and loved—the same way Lali made all of us feel.

Beyond her immeasurable work at the Center, Lali was a fierce advocate for political equality and representation for the Latino community. Lali understood the importance of responsive leaders who use their positions in the halls of government to protect and uplift all members of the community, regardless of race or ethnicity. She also recognized the need for leaders who would advocate for the fair and

equal treatment of the Latino community. In 1989, Lali founded La Raza Political Club. Under her leadership, La Raza elected many of the first Latinos to public office in Kansas City, finally creating a seat at the table for her community. During her time with La Raza, Lali registered new voters, fought back against discrimination at the polls, and proved the importance of perceptive leadership. By registering hundreds of Latino voters, Lali amplified their voices and worked to create a more just, equitable, and accepting nation. We are called to pick up this duty where Lali left off and to emphasize the importance of political engagement in all communities.

A short recognition cannot adequately describe the breadth of Lali’s tireless work building community resources, political representation, and cultural acceptance. At the end of her life, amidst a global pandemic, her work never ceased. Lali served as a member of the Guadalupe Centers Board of Directors; the Jackson County Ethics, Human Relations, & Citizen Complaints Commission; and the Civil Rights Consortium. She was also a member of the Union Cultural Mexicana Ladies Auxiliary and a full-time volunteer at the Casa Felix Senior Center. Lali was also appointed to the Guadalajara Sister City Commission and the Port Authority Board of Commissioners and has served on the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast Committee since 1987. Intentional acts of humble service filled each minute of her life. Lali’s commitment to those around her teaches us what it means to be an outspoken and selfless advocate and to meaningfully participate in the community.

Lali’s life reminds us that a single individual relentlessly fighting for what is right can, in fact, change the world around us. Change requires a person with the courage to acknowledge the unjust, the persistence to carry on through hardship, the will to protest loudly, and the spirit to fight until all are seen as equal. For Lali, this all came naturally, and her leadership has left a legacy that will continue to change lives for generations to come. Madam Speaker, let us rise each day and ask ourselves, as Lali Garcia did, how we can positively impact our community. Today, and every day, let us be fervent in service, gentle in heart, and motivated by love—just like Lali before us.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE EDWARD AMBURG HISTORY MUSEUM

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grand Opening of the Edward Amburg History Museum in Grafton, Illinois, which will take place on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

At age 83, Edward Amburg passed away in November of 2018. He is remembered by the community for his dedication to historical research of his beloved community.

Thanks to Ed’s efforts the City of Grafton received funding to build a museum focused on its storied past. The museum will include documents and artifacts donated by the Grafton Historical Society that will represent the rich

boat making, manufacturing, and farming history that Grafton is known for.

Ed’s passion and dedication for the history of Grafton will carry on through the museum that bears his name.

Again, I thank Ed for the legacy he left behind and congratulations to his wife Bobbie and the entire community. I look forward to visiting this great addition to the City of Grafton.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MAYOR RUDY DURHAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service career of Rudy Durham, the former mayor of Lewisville, Texas. Mayor Durham devoted almost 30 years of his life in service to his hometown.

Mayor Durham’s second 3-year term as mayor of Lewisville concluded in May 2021, ending 27 consecutive years of service in public office. Prior to his election to the Lewisville City Council in 1994, he volunteered as a member of the Planning and Zoning commission. He served as a city councilman for ten years prior to his first run for mayor.

In his business career, he was a Professional Appraiser and Real Estate Broker, and he retired as Chief Appraiser for the Denton Central Appraisal District in 2019. Mayor Durham takes great pride in being a fourth-generation Lewisville resident and he is the fifth Lewisville High School alumnus to serve as the city’s mayor. During his high school athletic career, Mayor Durham qualified for two state meets in shotput and played on the 1972 state finalist football team. His work on behalf of his community since his graduation in 1974 has merited him a place in the Lewisville High School Hall of Fame.

Under his leadership, Lewisville has continued to grow and thrive, even under the difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased to join the residents and businesses of Lewisville in commending Mayor Durham for his efforts to protect his constituents and enhance their quality of life. As Mayor Durham returns to private life, I would like to thank him for his longstanding devotion to his community and wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to vote in Roll Call number 162 on H.R. 1443. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call number 162.